amnesty international
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

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UA 40/84 "Disappearance" 20 February 1984

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Father Domingos SOARES, a priest and 22 others arrested since August 1983

(also further information on UA 212/83 ASA 21/12/83 21 September)

Father Domingos Soares, a priest from Ossu, Viqueque, in East Timor is reported to have "disappeared" after being arrested by Indonesian troops in late January 1984 in Ossu. Amnesty International has received reports of several hundred arrests in East Timor between August 1983 and the end of January 1984 in connection with a new Indonesian offensive. In addition to Father Soares, Amnesty International has received the names of 22 other people reported to have been arrested during this period and whose present whereabouts are not known:

Albino LOURDES
Domingo SEIXAS
Joao BOSCO DE ARAUJO
Porfirio CURSINO
Eurico DE JESUS
Maria NICOLAU DOS REYES
Jose DE SOUSA
David XIMENES
Belmiro HENRIQUE
Helder JORDAO DE ARAUJO
Evangelino (teacher at primary school, Balide, Dili)
Paulo MESQUITA
Bonifacio MAGNO
Abel XIMENES
Fernando SOARES
Agostinho (nurse employed at Farma Zelia, Dili)
Antonio PIEDADE
Filomeno PAIXAO
Jose HENRIQUES
Octavio JORDAO DE ARAUJO
Caetano DE SOUSA GUTTERES
Francisco CALCONA

Several of these people are reported to have simply "disappeared". Others were initially reported to have been sent to regional military headquarters in Bali or to Atauro, an island north of East Timor proper on which East Timorese allegedly associated with the resistance movement, Fretilin, have been held without charge or trial since 1980. Amnesty International has also received information that some of these people may be held in a newly constructed prison in Becora on the outskirts of the capital, Dili. However, appeals to the Indonesian authorities on behalf of some of these people (See UA 212/83 ASA 21/12/83 21 September) have not elicited further information on their whereabouts. Those people arrested since August 1983 about whom some details are known were arrested in Dili and in the districts of Viqueque and Baucau. Several of them are known to have been arrested on previous occasions for allegedly being associated with Fretilin. However, at the time of their most recent arrest most were employed as public servants or were working with the Indonesian army.

Background information

Since the Indonesian invasion of the Portuguese colony of East Timor in December 1975, Amnesty International has received persistent reports of serious human rights violations including torture, "disappearances" and arbitrary killings, carried out in particular against people suspected of supporting the resistance movement, Fretilin.

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☎ 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*

Negotiations in March 1983 between Fretilin and the Indonesian authorities led to a ceasefire in the territory. However, from early August 1983 there were indicattions that the ceasefire was breaking down. On 2 August 1983 Fretilin representatives abroad alleged that a letter had been sent by the Indonesian armed forces commander, General Benny Moerdani, to the Fretilin commander, Kai Rala Xanana, warning that if Fretilin did not surrender by 17 August 1983, Indonesian forces would launch a campaign to finally destroy them. In an incident near the town of Viqueque on 8 August 1983, Fretilin reportedly attacked an Indonesian outpost killing 15 Indonesian soldiers and wounding 20 others. Indonesian troops are reported to have executed a number of villagers in reprisal (reports of the number killed range from "several dozen" to 200).

Since about 10 August 1983 large numbers of Indonesian troops are reported to have landed in East Timor. It is understood that an Indonesian force of about 10,000 has since been trying to eliminate Fretilin resistance. Recent official Indonesian estimates have put Fretilin armed strength at 100 to 300 guerrillas. In a statement the the United Nations Decolonization Committee on 2 September 1983, Amnesty International said; "In the past the torture, extrajudicial killing and "disappearance" of non-combatants have been associated with increased military activity. For that reason, Amnesty International is particularly concerned by reports of the new Indonesian offensive." Since August 1983 several hundred people are reported to have been arrested in the areas of Dili, Baucau and Viqueque and there have been reports of extrajudicial executions of East Timorese not engaged in combat.

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— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action; if possible send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/airmail letters:

- urging an immediate investigation into the whereabouts of Father Domingos Soares and others who may have "disappeared" since August 1983 in East Timor
- requesting to be informed of the outcome of such investigations
- urging that any of these people found to be in detention be released if no charges have been brought against them

NOTE: *While telegrams should concentrate on the "disappearance" of Father Soares, Urgent Action participants sending telegrams or letters can also mention by name some or all of the other people reportedly arrested since 1983 and whose present whereabouts remain unknown.*

APPEALS TO:

President Suharto
Istana Negara
Jalan Veteran
Jakarta, Indonesia

Telegrams to: President Suharto, Jakarta, Indonesia

Brigadier General R.P.D. Sutarto
Commander KODAM XVI
Udayana, Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia

(regional commander under whose region East Timor falls)

Telegrams to: Brig. Gen. Sutarto, KODAM, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Copies of appeals should be sent to Indonesian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 2 April 1984.